

MONGOLIAN STATE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

VOL.8 May – August, 2012

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Mongolian Association of State Alumni (MASA) was established in September 2007 as a community of all past and current Mongolian participants of U.S. Government sponsored exchange programs. Since 1989 more than 700 Mongolians have participated in U.S. Government sponsored programs and you are a welcome member of this family.

MASA Mission is to contribute to the bilateral relationships of Mongolia and the U.S. and promote the efforts of Mongolian U.S. Government alumni for societal and community development.



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D.JARGALSAIKHAN

Current president of the Mongolian Association of State Alumni (MASA), Economist, Defacto program host, USAID Masters' Program alumnus, 2002.



MONGOLIAN U.S. ALUMNI BANQUET

On July 6, 2012, MASA organized the first Mongolian U.S. alumni banquet at the 976 Art Gallery on the fifth floor of Max Mall. The purpose of the event was to give Mongolian alumni of U.S. universities the chance to form networks and find opportunities to unite for common interests and goals that would bring positive changes to the country's social and economic development.

MASA invited those Mongolians whose studies in the U.S. were not financed by the U.S. government scholarships, as MASA aims to expand its scope and become an umbrella organization/association for all Mongolians who have studied in the U.S. regardless of program or funding type/source.

More than 200 alumni of U.S. universities and representatives of U.S. funded/operated businesses came to the event. U.S. Ambassador to Mongolia, Jonathan Addleton made opening remarks for the event and emphasized the importance of people-to-people ties in the success of any two countries' relationship and the important role educational exchange and alumni play in this relationship. MASA thanked the Ambassador for his consistent support of MASA and alumni activities and presented the ambassador with a gift on the occasion of his departure from Mongolia.

At the event, MASA gave a presentation about the association and its current project to improve employment and business opportunities for people with mobility disabilities. MASA has raised more than USD 10,000 for the project. The main donors included Khas bank, with 5 million



U.S. Ambassador to Mongolia Mr. Jonathan Addleton greets banquet guests.

MNT; Mr. Lkhagvadorj, with 5 million MNT; Newcom, with 3 million MNT; MIH, with 2 million MNT; Wagner Asia, with 2 million MNT; Hogan Lovells, with 2 million MNT; and Eser Trading, with 1 million MNT in donations for the cause. Many organizations, such as MCS Coca Cola made in-kind donations for the event providing drinks free-of-charge. There also was a donation box at the event and many of the attendees made cash donations. The cash donations collected at the event total over one million Tugrik.

"MASA raises over 10,000 for its project for the disabled."

All proceeds from the event will go to sustaining the project after the U.S. grant runs out. The money will be transferred to Universal Development NGO, an independent living center for disabled, which is working as the implementing organization for the project.



Mongolian U.S. alumni pose for a photograph during the banquet at the 976 Art Gallery.

MASA would like to express its deepest gratitude to everyone who provided monetary and in-kind support to the event thus supporting MASA's effort for promoting "equal opportunities" in our society. MASA also would like to extend a special thanks to its president Mr. Jargalsaikhan whose effort enabled the major donations, and to Ms. Gantuya and Ms. Munkhsoyol as well as our youth alumni, whose help was invaluable for the success of the event.



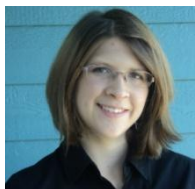
MASA president Mr. Jargalsaikhan and U.S. Ambassador to Mongolia Mr. Jonathan Addleton give the opening remarks for the event.

INTRODUCING THE NEW ENGLISH TEACHING ASSISTANTS 2013



Eli Remillard

My name is Eli Remillard and I am from a small town in northeastern New York state called Peru. I recently graduated from Hamilton College in Clinton, New York, with a major in history and minors in art history and economics. I have always been interested in Mongolian people, history, and culture since doing a project on the Mongol empire in fourth grade. I am very grateful to be given this opportunity to learn more about Mongolian culture, language, and government while sharing American culture and language with the Mongolian people.



Lisa Dompier

As a big fan of sports and athletics, I am particularly excited to experience traditional Mongolian cultural sports, such as archery, horseback riding, and wrestling. I am looking forward to spending ten months as an English teaching assistant in Mongolia. I am from Loveland, Colorado and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English (education concentration) and a Spanish minor from Colorado State University. I enjoy playing piano in my spare time and learning to play the ukulele so that I can continue singing and playing no matter where I go. I hope that my experience as an ETA will allow me to learn valuable teaching skills, develop a better understanding of Mongolian culture, and give me an opportunity to learn Mongolian. The things that attract me most to Mongolia are the country's people and rich history.



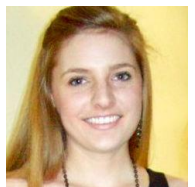
Joe Lerangis

My name is Joe Lerangis, and I am from New York City, New York. I graduated with a B.A. from Kenyon College, where I majored in music, Chinese, and French, with a concentration in Asian Studies. Harboring a passion for politics, I am interested to learn more about the political structures and theories of Mongolia. I am also eager to explore the music culture of Mongolia, both modern and traditional, and of Ulaanbaatar in particular. By the same token, I hope to use my own knowledge and love of music to enrich the experience of learning English for my students. As an English teaching assistant, I am excited to hone my own skills as a language teacher while inevitably learning about Mongolian culture from the students at the University of Health Sciences.



Katelin Burke

My name is Katelin Burke, and I've spent most of my life in a suburb north of Chicago. I went to college at Miami University – the one in rural Ohio, not the one in Florida – where I studied linguistics and discovered an interest in the preservation and revitalization of minority languages. In addition to my passion for language, I am also a writer, a scout, and a general outdoor enthusiast. I lived near Denver for three years in my early childhood, which inspired a lifelong love of mountains and rugged terrain. I am also an avid archer and horseback rider; although my formal equestrian training is limited, I have spent three summers teaching horsemanship for a merit badge at a Boy Scout Camp in northern Wisconsin. During my time in Mongolia, I hope to bring many of these interests together: to develop my interest in teaching English as a second or foreign language, to surround myself with a language unlike any I've ever studied, and to explore Mongolia's horse culture. I am looking forward to this incredible opportunity.



Lauren Hendricks

I'm Lauren Hendricks and I'm a recent graduate of Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, and my home state is South Carolina. At Duke, I majored in public policy and double minored in English and theater studies. Academically, I am very interested in politics, governmental policy, international business relations, and literature. More personally, I love film, music, watching football and basketball, and playing with my dog. I was most interested in Mongolia's culture and traditions when researching this program. I was intrigued by Mongolia's rapid economic development and commitment to preserving its rich heritage. I hope that as an ETA I will be able to help my students and meaningfully contribute to classroom lessons. I also cannot wait to learn more about Mongolian culture and meet the people of this great country.



Lisa Baer

Hello! My name is Lisa Baer, and I live in the southern part of the United States near Atlanta, Georgia. I attended an amazing liberal arts college called Georgia College & State University, and I graduated in 2011 with a degree in psychology and a minor in sociology. My passions lie in linguistics, psychology, sociology, traveling, teaching, learning, and meeting new people. I am really looking forward to living and working in Mongolia because I am very fascinated by Mongolian culture and language. I can't wait to watch wrestling, horse racing, and archery during Nadaam! I also have a special interest in the music traditions-I am looking forward to hearing throat singing and the horsehead fiddle.

www.BIDCHADNA.mn

Presenting an Employment Tool to the Disabled

On June 16, 2012, more than 50 representatives of different NGOs and groups of physically impaired people gathered at the fifth floor of the Max Mall to learn about a brand new tool for people with disabilities to find employment and business opportunities.

As part of MASA's latest initiative, MASA has created a special database that will allow skilled people and entrepreneurs with mobility disabilities to find employment and to sell and promote their services and products. The name of this web database is BIDCHADNA.mn roughly translating as "we can do it". On this day, MASA invited the representatives of the disabled community see the new database and to offer their feedback and suggestions. The database has three main functions:

1. Job search: Database allows disabled people or home-bound parents who take care of their disabled children to create an individual profile stating their skills and the type of job they are interested in. Database will regularly be updated with new job postings from member companies and organizations and the registered members will receive regular updates. Vice versa, member companies and organizations will also receive regular updates on newly registered members and can search the database for a suitable employee and make job offers.
2. Business opportunity: Database allows disabled entrepreneurs and home-bound parents to promote their products and services free-of-charge to member companies and organizations as well as the public. The member companies will be encouraged to patronize the services and purchase the products offered by the disabled members.



More than 50 people with disability attended the www.bidchadna.mn website launch, which helps people on wheelchair to meet with its potential employer.

3. Social map: The database will also allow people to see what places in Ulaanbaatar have wheelchair access. The database creators used Google map to enter information about more than 800 places in Ulaanbaatar and to mark the ones that have wheelchair access. Organizations and the public also have the opportunity to put in information about new or overlooked venues that have wheelchair access by filling out a simple form on the website and clicking send. The database creators have expectation that the "map" will grow as people and organizations enter more information.

4. Legal advice: Collaboration with the law clinic at the National University's Law School, the database offers a legal advice feature where members can get personal legal advice or have online discussions on employment and disability issues. Law professors from the National University of Mongolia (NUM) will provide advice and information to people's inquiries. The database also provides some general information about Mongolian laws and regulations pertaining to employment and disability.

The attendees of the event were very excited about the new tool and are looking forward to being a member. U.S. Ambassador to Mongolia Jonathan Addleton attended the event and encouraged people to take advantage of this great opportunity. The database is now in test phase and all the attendees were asked to participate in the trial launch by registering and using the database. MASA is planning to do a major job fair in August to promote the database to major employers in Ulaanbaatar.



Mongolian Association of State Alumni board has been implementing the project together with the US Embassy in UB and Universal Development center NGO.

First Fulbrighter to Be Elected As A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

“Live like a human and develop like a nation” was the campaign slogan under which Ms. Oyungerel ran for the 2012 parliamentary election representing the Democratic Party (DP) in Ulaanbaatar’s Khan-Uul district.

It is with pleasure we inform our alumni community that Ms. Oyungerel Tsedevdamba, a Fulbright and Eisenhower alumna, a board member of MASA, and a well-known author of several bestsellers, was elected as a member of parliament, becoming the first Fulbright and the third Eisenhower alumna to become a parliament member. She is one of nine women to help steer the country in the next four years, alongside 67 men.

Ms. Oyungerel was one of the initiators of the idea for MASA’s current project of empowering the disabled through equal employment opportunities for which MASA was able to raise over USD 10,000 to supplement the grant they received from the U.S. Department of State. MASA is very proud and pleased that a fellow alumna and a fellow board member will be in parliament and wishes the best of success to Ms. Oyungerel in her endeavors and looks forward to future opportunities to work together to advocate for many positive changes for the country’s development. Below we present you an excerpt from Ms. Oyungerel’s speech at Mongolia’s first national U.S. Alumni conference in January 2011.



The Democratic Party’s two Parliamentary candidates L. Bold and Ts. Oyungerel, while rallying in Yarmag, Han-Uul District making speeches in support of the party and their campaigns.

A SPEECH

by Oyungerel Tsedevdamba

January 15, 2011

Your Excellency Ambassador Jonathan Addleton,

Distinguished Delegates,

Dear Alumni,

It is my privilege to speak at the first national conference of Mongolian alumni from U.S. Universities and U.S. government funded programs.

We all have graduated from different schools, have lived in different campuses and majored in different subjects. But we all have experienced something in common and acquired something important from our American education.

Let me remind you of a simple picture of our American campuses.

While studying on American campuses, we all walked, jogged, ran and rode bicycles. We lived in healthy and safe environments. While walking along the streets of our university campus, we dreamt of having such safe pedestrian roads and jogging trails in our cities.

While relaxing on campus grasslands and parks, we all enjoyed trees, flowers, leaves and freely roaming squirrels and chipmunks. Then we all wondered, when and why did we let our wilderness go away? How can we let our native animals live while building a city, while living our lives? How will we teach our children what is beautiful and what is natural?

In our campuses, we walked along with disabled students. They were independent. There were sidewalks and crossing signals for them. Doors opened widely and automatically for them, and the elevators were big and safe for our fellow students in wheelchairs. The teachers asked us to share our notes with deaf and blind students. We all grew as humane human beings while studying together, and considering the special needs of such disabled students. Coming back to Mongolia, our hearts feel sad when doors are not open, stairs are too high, and streets are too dangerous for our disabled students. Our hearts ache even more, when we don't have special buses for them and the more disabled they are the more expensive and difficult their lives are.

In our American campuses, when we were thirsty, we walked to a drinking fountain in any public building and enjoyed highly clean water. We even didn't ask how safe the water was. We just drank it as guaranteed safe. Did we bring such a water standard to our country yet? Can we safely drink water on the streets of Ulaanbaatar? Have we opened an office where we can freely enter and receive information on water standards?

I am not trying to advocate that our goal is to transform Mongolia into America. But I wanted to remind us how much groundwork is still waiting for us to transform Mongolia into a country where everyone can enjoy a safe and clean environment. Because we have seen such an environment, because we know that it can be done, I want to remind us that environmental safety like basic human rights protection and guarantees is something we must achieve in Mongolia.

There was something else special on American campuses. We all enjoyed a policy of diversity – for women and minorities. Without a diversity policy, I, with poorer English than native English speakers, could not have been the first Mongolian graduate from Stanford University. Without a diversity policy, many thousands of women would never have been accepted to Yale University which was famous for its male dominance just 40 years ago. There is a place called "Mory's Club" near the Yale campus. It was exclusively for sports-minded male students just 30 years ago because up until then there were no women's sports teams at Yale University.

Then, something happened. Yale University, along with many other progressive colleges and universities in the U.S., established a women's quota, a minority quota, and an international diversity policy. Without the adoption of a special policy directed to bring ethnic minorities and women into America's white, male dominated campuses, American women and minorities could never even dream of competing with privileged white male students. Now, as international students from an underrepresented nation, Mongolian applicants are enjoying the benefits of America's progressive diversity policy.

Today in Mongolia, we have a similar problem. We have a female dominance in education and a male dominance in politics. In both cases, we need diversity policies and targeted quotas so that both genders have equal opportunity to succeed in the fields in which they are currently underrepresented.

When we look at our parliament, where less than four percent of our MPs are women, we as a nation should feel embarrassed. When we look at our university classrooms and see that under 30 percent of the students are men, we as

parents, should feel worried. When we see employment ads stating that only pretty young women should apply, and when we see a mining company hiring only men into their operations, we as women, should feel concerned. We have to ask ourselves, "With such inequities, where is our sustainable future?"

Sustainability of our country's future lies in balance. Even nature can't sustain itself without a balance. How long can Mongolian people sustain a life guided only by male politicians? And how long Mongolian families can sustain without equal opportunities between men and women in education? And how long can Mongolian children sustain their dreams if doors are closed because of their gender or other differences?

We alumni have many issues to address, as well.

Here I want to ask you to remember your American experience. I ask you to recall the simplest things you did and you saw on your campuses. If those simple things that brought you peace, safety and humanity are not present in Mongolia, not present in your life, I call upon you to work toward introducing them here. ...

... Distinguished guests and alumni,

There are so many examples in the world where people exposed to new cultures and fresh ideas helped transform their societies. Today's conference opens an important opportunity for all of us. Let's use it. Let's share our ideas, our experience, and our education to strengthen our networks

and learn what we are doing in different fields. Mongolia's Poet of the 20th Century, Dashdorjiin Natsagdorj, and a great thinker and doctor, Byambiin Renchin, following their exposure to Germany and Hungary helped Mongolians learn from Europe.

Elvis Presley, while growing up at the interface of black and white culture, helped all of the Americans embrace one another's culture. Bruce Lee, a Chinese young man living in the U.S., fought for recognition as an Asian star in American society. Michael Jackson, while singing on the world's grandest stages, helped remedy the poison of racism in young minds and a whole world generation – just as Madeline Albright, Condoleezza Rice and Hillary Clinton did for sexism in politics. Without such pioneers, maybe today's president of the United States would not have been elected.

I am sure that Mongolia has our own Elvis Presleys, Bruce Lees, Michael Jacksons and Hillary Clintons among us and our emerging generation. Thanks to us, our brothers and sisters, and our children, Mongolia will soon be discovered and admired by more and more Americans.

Our most important mission, as U.S. alumni is to help change our country's today and mold it into a better tomorrow. That is why we went to study in the U.S., and that is why we returned.

Now let's do it.

Thank you for your attention.



FULBRIGHTER STORY

- Learn song! Enkhma said, smiling at me with sunglasses on.
- Learn *a* song, I said, correcting her. We want to learn *a* song.
- Yeah, she said, pulling her ear buds out and grinning. We want. We want to *learn a song*, I corrected her.
- Yeah, we want.

Throughout the month of March and April, my first year English students at the National University of Mongolia have been examining songs by the Beatles. I proposed the idea at the start of the semester, asking them if they recognized any of the four men cast in bronze near the statue near the State Department store.

- What statue? Solongo asked, looking up from a text message she was typing. Solongo was the youngest in the class at 16 and the best English speaker.
- Quit texting, I replied, chuckling at how many times in a single day I had to remind my students that they shouldn't text (or take calls) during class. "You know, the statue near the fountain, across the street from *Ikh Delguur*."
- Oh, the Beatles. Boring *bagsha*, she said, cocking her head at me and smiling.
- It won't be boring, I promise. We'll learn new words and old songs.
- Can we learn a Pitbull song? Deegii asked, a tall girl with straight hair who frequently sat next to Solongo.
- Never.

Deegii crossed her arms and pretended to pout.

- Black Eyed Peas... Chinsana piped in from the back. "*Imma be, Imma be...*"

- Too easy. Listen, have I ever taught you a boring song? I ask, smirking at them.

Months later and the class had successfully learned *Across the Universe* by the Beatles, a tough song with a complex topic and abstract language (*words are flowing out like endless rain into a paper cup, the slither while they pass, they slip away across the universe*). We sang the song together while I played guitar, listened to several different versions, and now the class would request for me to play it from time to time.

- Teacher, *nothing's gonna change my world...*

"Not if you let it," I usually answered, not sure the best philosophical way to combat one of John Lennon's most powerful lines as spoken through the mouth of a seventeen year old Mongolian girl forty years later.



Sometimes I'm the teacher, sometimes I'm the student.

My students have become somewhat of an extension of me (if that is even possible). They speak like me. Example: I get a text message asking for a letter of recommendation. I say yes, and the follow up text says, "You da best." (I must have said this in a text at some point, regardless; it's definitely something I say from time to time). They voluntarily help me when I have problems, ranging from medical to speaking to my landlady for me over the phone when there is a problem with my apartment. I imagine this must sound interesting to my landlady, a sixty-five year old woman from the Gobi who gets random calls from Mongolian girls speaking on behalf of me. They wave at me from across the street, they tease me for having not been married yet and they cheer me up when I'm missing home. My students remain a constant reminder to me that the ever blossoming surge of global youth shows no sign of slowing down, a fact scary to some, natural to others, and a combination of both to a handful of rightfully weary adults.

Teaching English through the United States Fulbright Program has developed my character in a way I never thought possible. Besides the reward of being a teacher and watching students improve, my public speaking abilities as well as my concept of my own language have increased. I suddenly find myself listening to people speaking English for the sole sake of hearing English idiosyncrasies and regional differences. The Fulbright ETA position has opened my world in a way I never thought possible. It has provided me heaps of inspiration for my novels and has placed me in the presence of great teachers and interesting students, all within the borders of an exciting country that is growing exponentially. For me, my Fulbright ETA experience has been as much of a learning experience as it has been a teaching experience.

Cooper Baltis was born in Austin, Texas. After playing music in the Austin music scene for a number of years, he attended St. Edward's University and received a degree in history. He has taught English in India and studied the Tibetan language in Nepal. Cooper has written four books, one of which is available on Amazon.com. He hopes to stay in Mongolia another year teaching English before enrolling in a creative writing MFA program in New York or London.

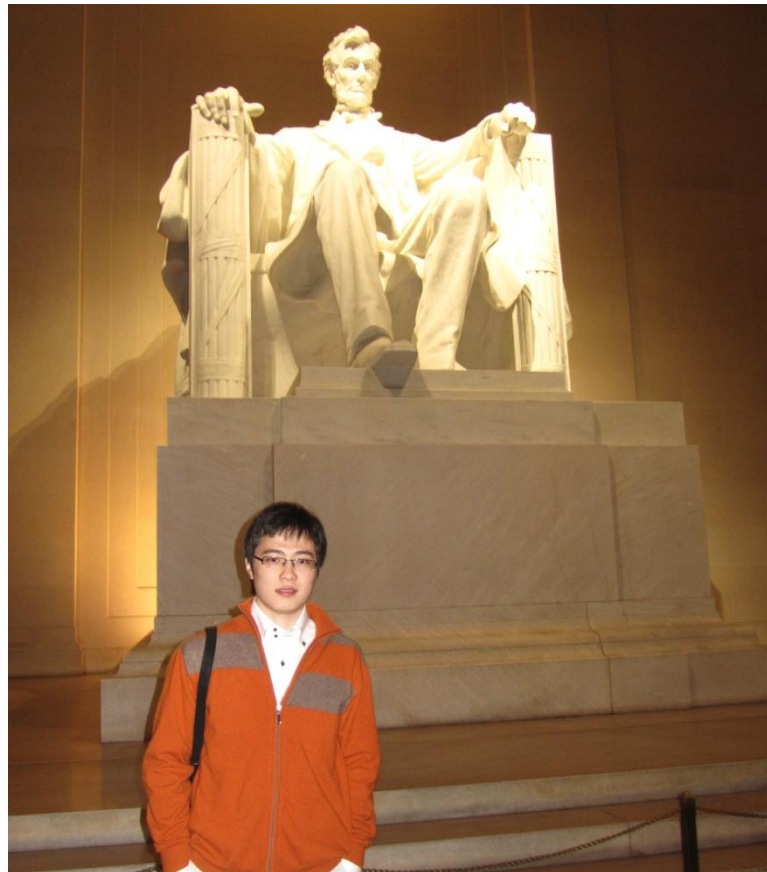
EXCHANGE REFLECTIONS

UGRAD STORY

Hello everyone, my name is Erdene and I am an alumna of the UGRAD exchange program. I studied at University of Evansville, in Indiana. I wanted to share about the chances and possibilities you have when you study in the U.S. But that is too mainstream. Plus, you can "Google" it and you will get millions of reasons why you should experience the U.S. Boring you with what you can get from internet is not my intention. So I wanted to share the most difficult moments of mine in the U.S. I hope it will help others who are planning to study in there.

Mongolian students had orientation in Ulaanbaatar before going to the United States. One thing that stuck in my head from the orientation was "cultural shock". I really thought that shock will be something like modern technology and services. I was hoping for a lot of awkward moments to face. When I really got there, there was not really a shock in terms of technology and services. But in reality, everything was organized for people and for their convenience. So, there was not much of a shock. Then I was happy and possibly enjoying everything around me. So I stopped paying attention to the cultural shock thing.

Then the real cultural shock came, and I did not even realize that I was having it. When everything you thought to be true and right is no longer be ultimate truth or righteousness -that was the moment that I lost my confidence. Newness of new place will fade away and there will be you, all by yourself. If you shut yourself down, then you will never be able to expose yourself to the new culture. Living abroad is not just changing location, it is changing your perspectives and finding yourself and redefining your goals. It is an amazing opportunity that requires just a little perseverance. Do not be too attached to the person you left behind. Even it is different than what you



Tour around the Washington DC during workshop

used to believe in. It is not going to change who you are but add some new perspectives.

How to overcome cultural shock? Everybody will have their own answer but for my case, I talked. I talked to people every time I was experiencing difference. It helps you to meet new people and plus in the U.S. people like people from different countries. Coming from Mongolia is not mainstream there. Actually, it is an advantage when you meet new people. I talked to students, and I scheduled meeting with school officials. Sometimes getting out of your comfort zone helps you to grow and become better. Studying abroad is the best chance to put yourself out of your comfort zone.

In conclusion, studying and living abroad is not that easy, especially if it is your first time like me. But for me it was the best experience ever. I made a fool out of myself a lot of times just because I was new. But, you know what, being new and building your social status from zero was just an awesome feeling. After one year, I saw myself and new that I became better in every way than I used to be.



International students are playing during orientation



My friend from the Philippines and I are trying outside wall climbing.

FULBRIGHTER STORY

My name is Naranbulag Khukhuu, a recent Fulbright alumni, I completed my master's degree in law from the John Marshall Law School, in Chicago, in 2012 and I'm delighted to share my experience and memories of my Fulbright period in the United States with you. I want to emphasize that aspiring to a vision of achieving an international understanding and fraternity through the exchange of people, knowledge and skills, Fulbright is a marvelous program because its benefit extends not only to individual, but also to their states, even in broader sense, to the entire world. It provides invaluable academic, life, and cultural experiences to an individual, makes a great educational investment to a state, and fosters friendship and peace in the world. My Fulbright experience broadened my global perspective and expanded my intellectual and practical boundaries in many aspects, such as knowledge, network of friends and partners, individual manner and life, and cultural experience. The time I spent at the John Marshall Law School in Chicago, left a stronger and more lasting impression on me than my earlier study stint in Delhi University, in India, perhaps because of Fulbright. It's hard to choose which one of my many wonderful memories to share. So, I will share a few fondest ones.

The Fulbright program is unique...

The Fulbright program has expanded to more than 155 nations since its inception and thus has become the most diverse international educational exchange program. As such, diversity and the aim of mutual or international understanding between nations is a special feature of the program.

I embarked on my Fulbright and my U.S. adventure from New Orleans, a southern city of the U.S. where I did my pre-academic course at Tulane Law School, then I shifted to Chicago, the third largest city in the U.S. to complete my degree. During my stay in these two cities and several events in other cities, I met with more than 300 fellow Fulbrighters from around 100 countries and made lifelong friends with most of them. The most impressive and unforgettable memory is the Enrichment Seminar in Philadelphia, organized by IIE and the U.S. Department of State. More than 140 fellow Fulbrighters from 74 countries gathered in this historic and colonial city of the U.S. The seminar aimed to introduce the U.S. political procedure and culture to foreign Fulbrighters and to strengthen the mutual understanding and friendship between people of the U.S. and foreign countries. I felt like I was in the United Nations. I came into contact with

peers from Argentina to Japan, from South Africa to Northern Ireland, UK. I wasn't even familiar with some countries. For instance, I made friends with a Fulbrighter from European nation of Andorra, which has a population of 85,000, yet \$58,000 GDP per capita, an amount 20 times more than that of Mongolia. The seminar included lectures, panel discussions, site visits, interactive workshops, community engagement and home stays with American families. We exchanged views, shared our cultures, toured around, played and hung out together. After all, the truth I found is that we all, as human beings, are alike and the best understanding is achieved informally over a coffee table rather than formal or diplomatic events. Because, as someone simply said, we think differently, but we all have the same feelings.

My Fulbright experience would have been incomplete had I not attended those activities and events that involve excellent alumni, eminent scholars, skillful professionals, notable leaders and politicians. The Fulbright program, with support of the U.S. government formally or informally organizes numerous events and activities through its alumni, community, and scholars. During the Philadelphia Enrichment seminar, I chanced to meet an energetic constitutional lawyer Linda Mock, who is a White House public servant and was a keynote speaker of the seminar and also a classmate of President Barack Obama at Harvard. Along with other Fulbrighters, we engaged in fruitful dialogue with Ms. Mock about our constitutions, election systems, countries and cultures. Our chat lasted from 8pm to 2am at the 30th floor's roof library of beautiful Loews Hotel. Ms. Mock, during our introduction, said that indigenous Americans maybe related to Mongolians, and her granddad is American Indian, so she could have Mongolian blood. She compared her nose to mine. No matter true or false, I felt proud of our rich history. Other fascinating conversation was when we exchanged our views about "Rule of Law." As a law student, I asked Ms. Mock "When do you consider that rule of law is well established in any particular society or country?" She answered "Rule of law would be considered well established only when every single citizen follows and strictly abides the law even if he or she views that her/his right is being violated by that particular law. Because law is law." It was the best articulation of the concept I ever heard. I realized that this is a key principle of the law-abiding society of the United States, very simple!

A little bit about academic and student life...

My education was enriched both in and outside the classroom. As we all are aware, there are certain features and differences in the U.S. universities or education system as compared to that of Mongolia and other countries.

Distinguished teaching methods, well qualified faculty, rich resources, facilities and learning environment, strict plagiarism policies and heavy course loads. Among all this, an impressive feature I experienced was the Socratic method, a teaching method employed especially in law schools of the U.S. Under the Socratic method, students learn by answering



Celebrating Chicago St. Patrick's day. After volunteer marching in parade with friends.

the guiding or challenging questions of the professor, by hearing opinions of others and debating among themselves. For this, pre-class reading is a must, and if one doesn't read and prepare for the class, it would be hard to understand the class and a waste of time. In class, students are called on by the professor with questions about the reading and the class continues with a long discussion, debate and jokes. It's real fun to attend class and when reading isn't done, it's a nightmare. In the Socratic method, it's not necessary to have only one correct answer, there could be more than one. One of my friends from Germany was complaining that "I wanna know my mistakes, whenever I or someone else in this class says something, the professor always says I'm or he/she is correct. Exactly whose answer is the correct one?" During the entire year, a piece of paper with our names, photos and corresponding seats was on the professor's table so that professor would call on us during class. In one class where most students were foreigners who were unfamiliar with the Socratic method and had not done the reading assignment, the professor called on us one by one and nobody answered. In the end, he sarcastically and jokingly said "Who is the next "victim," you had nothing to say, you could call on someone else in the class whom you dislike and pass on the question" so funny☺.

I now realize that I learned a lot from my classmates, apart from the professors, and learned to think critically. The Professors guided and mentored us but they hardly tried to impose ideas or particular views on us. We were given freedom of expression, and they encouraged independent thinking.

I like that professors are very passionate in their classes and approachable, and I loved our treasure-like library, wonderful staff, and campus environment. Without all these, I couldn't have done better.

Figuring out the 17th century's judicial cases written in "horrible" English, dealing with complicated online and electronic reading resource system for my research, doing volumes of reading, learning time management, having a tight schedule were all challenges. Nevertheless, social and cultural mingling with community and "Thank God It is Friday" parties with friends were extremely fun and de-stressing.

A little bit about the U.S. society...

The U.S. society is multicultural. Diversity, pluralism, voluntarism, respect for individual rights, mutual trust, creativity and dynamism are the beauty of this society.

What left a deep impression on me was respect for others and gestures of politeness. It's reflected on everything in their daily life, from government service to personal interaction with others. Helping a stranger on the street, smiling at a passerby, holding the door open for the person behind, and constant expressions of "thank you" or "excuse me" are the common manner of Americans. Unfortunately, it's not culture and habit yet in Mongolia. When I was riding a

historic "street car," a kind of train in New Orleans, at the final destination the driver/operator got off the train to switch shifts, every passenger in the train simultaneously said "thank you so much" and then when the driver for another shift got on the train he turned back and said "Hi everyone, how are you?" It sounded unusual to me for the first few months.

Other aspects of American culture that impressed me were their spirit of giving, commitment to helping others and volunteerism. It seems they have permeated all strata of society. My neighbor who is from a poor family in suburban Chicago would always contribute something, at least even old T-shirt or bra to any clothes donation campaign despite her economic situation. Any average American promotes volunteering, whether it's for a local community improvement activity, an environmental activity or even for a political campaign and also positively responds to appeals for funds, whether it's for the homeless, heritage or animal welfare. I realize that helping fellow human beings is always a pleasure to them and society exists in that way.

And finally, I personally observed that Americans live on mutual trust and law-abiding principles.

A little bit about Chicago...

I enjoyed being a resident of the "Windy" city Chicago. The deep sense of diversity, the tidy and well organized streets, beautiful Lake Michigan, Millennium Park, the Navy Pier, Barack Obama and Michael Jordan's houses, Oprah Winfrey's Harpo Studios, the Lincoln Park Zoo, museum campuses, and great theatres have left a strong, lasting impression on me. Cheering on the Chicago Bulls at the NBA playoffs and the Black Hawks at the NHL playoffs was fun too. I will miss blues and jazz music, renowned deep-dish pizza, jiborita, shopping malls on North Michigan Avenue, and, of course, my law school.

Looking ahead, my vision for MASA is that as a hub of excellent individuals it should engage in new initiatives and projects more actively.

The label "Fulbright" opens doors and hearts to you; many strangers would strike up a lively conversation with you and talk to you like your old friend simply because he or she shares the strong bond of Fulbright experience with you. My Fulbright experience was incredible. I would encourage others to experience it as well and to become a bridge of friendship between societies and cultures.

Thank you to all staff working for the Fulbright program. Cheers!

HUMPHREY STORY

When I landed in the U.S. in the Summer of 2011 to study in Michigan State University as a Hubert Humphrey Fellow 2011-2012, I was so excited because I felt it was a great chance to pursue my goal, which was to expand my professional experience and academic knowledge in Human Resource Management in order to better our community by training Mongolian human resources professionals to be able to empower Mongolian people in the future.

But when I arrived there, I felt so sad and disappointed, because I missed my family terribly and had a serious homesickness from the beginning throughout the autumn of 2011 that influenced my studies badly. I once thought of withdrawing my program and returning home to come back to my family. But I didn't want to give up easily. I remembered Robert Kiyosaki's words "You will always have time to give up, but why now?" Meanwhile, my Humphrey classmates who were away from their families were handling their homesickness very well. Then I realized that instead of feeling sad and having homesickness, I needed to keep myself busy and spend my free time after school effectively.

Therefore, I found a way to move on and follow the goal I had planned. In addition to this, I decided to explore and develop myself by shifting my weaknesses to strengths and initiated a project for me called "Personal Development Management" in November 2011. Then my development journey started with a positive attitude and a strong energy. Within a scope of my project, I joined many clubs and associations such as the International Toast Masters club, the "Better Living" Book Readers' Club, the MSU Student Entrepreneurship Association, the Young Women and Strong Leaders Club, and the International Volunteers Speakers Club. Among those activities, the Toastmasters club and the book club challenged me greatly to develop new skills: public speaking and analytical skills.

As a member of MSU Student Entrepreneurship, I tried to encourage and train students who wanted to be entrepreneurs by developing their mindset. We also tried to refresh and change the traditional way to teach students and initiated an innovative project within our community in East Lansing. During my membership in the Toastmasters club for six months, I won the Club and Area level Public Speaking Competitions and took third place at the district level competition thanks to practicing my speech skills every week. As a volunteer speaker, I presented about my country's



With "Better Living" Book club friends, East Lansing Public Library, March 2012

culture and economic perspective to college students, professors, and community residents.

I also learned great personality traits from other Humphrey classmates and gained some of those characteristics such as a sense of humor from East European fellows, persistence from Cambodian and Vietnamese friends, a strong self-confidence from a Burkina Faso fellow and friendship from a Nepalese fellow, and loyalty from Pakistani fellow respectively.

During my Humphrey year, I read 25 personal development books, studied six academic courses, completed three professional internships, presented 10 speeches about Mongolia, attended more than 12 professional workshops and networked with about 250 professional people. Most importantly, I was inspired by the Humphrey experience to write a book about success devoted to everyone who wants to be successful and needs support and advice to pursue their goals. I will write about my book in more detail in the next article of this newsletter.

At the end of Humphrey Program, I had the chance to give a speech about my Humphrey experience at the Year End Retreat for Humphrey Fellows. As I concluded in my speech "Perfect Year in My Life," I discovered myself in depth, broadened my perspective, explored new things, and planned my life in the long run which was one of my biggest achievements. I can surely say that the Humphrey year was the Perfect Year in My Life. I brought many great ideas and a lot of confidence with me from the Humphrey program and now I'm ready to implement my new knowledge and experience in practice.

Gandolgor Purevjav has B.S in Business Administration and M.S. in International Business. She has recently completed the Hubert Humphrey Program 2011-2012, a Fulbright sister program. She specialized in Human Resource (HR) Management. Ms. Purevjav is Founder and Executive Director of the Ganabell HR Center. She is aiming to conduct HR training for public and private sector company development, capacity building, operational efficiency, and performance management and planning to run youth leadership programs.

AMERICAN CULTURAL

AND

INFORMATION CENTER

The U.S. Embassy in Ulaanbaatar supports a small American style public library known as the American Cultural and Information Center at the Ulaanbaatar City Public Library. The Center's main goal is improvement of mutual understanding between the people of the United States and Mongolia. The Center contains reference works, periodicals, and a circulating book collection.

Free on-line reference searching and e-mail access enhance the ability of the Center to provide the most up-to-date information to their patrons. Events at the center for wide audiences give first-hand exposure to American culture, as well as provide opportunities to meet native English speakers and American speakers on various topics. American Centers are often used by USG alumni as venues for their meetings and events.

http://mongolia.usembassy.gov/american_cultural_information_center3.html

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/American-Corner-Ulaanbaatar/162640348874>

"Let's Talk About America" lecture series

Every Thursday at 4pm the center holds an English lecture for the public on a variety of topics. The speakers usually include U.S. Embassy officers or American citizens who are working in Mongolia. These lectures grant the participants an opportunity to deepen their understanding about the history, culture, art and nature of America and improve their language skills.

(Please note that this program runs from September until the end of June with a break in January.)

U.S. EMBASSY

IN ULAANBAATAR

For information regarding general activities and news of the U.S. Embassy including: Key Embassy Officers, Embassy reports and speeches, Programs and Grants, Educational and Scholarship Opportunities, Alumni News and much more please visit: <http://mongolia.usembassy.gov>

To learn about Embassy's Alumni News and Activities please visit: <http://mongolia.usembassy.gov/masa.html>

U.S. Embassy also invites you to connect with us via Social Media sites.

 <http://www.twitter.com/USembMongolia>

 <http://www.facebook.com/USAinMongolia>

EDUCATION USA

Educational Advising and Resource Center (EARC) is a member of the global Education USA network of more than 450 advising centers supported by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State.

The EARC actively works in collaboration with the US Embassy in Mongolia. Moreover, the center disseminates accurate, comprehensive, current, and unbiased information about the US education system and scholarship opportunities to students and individuals who want to study in the United States.

Email: info@earcmn.org

Website: <http://www.earcmn.org>

Location: Sukhbaatar district, Student's street,
Building MKM-24, 1st floor,
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Working Hours: Mon-Friday 09:00-18:00